

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-10

NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 SPC-03 FEA-02

SAM-01 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /170 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2796

INFO AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: GARRISON DIVERSION

REF: NEF/JANOWSKI TELCON

1. FEBRUARY 26 TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL CARRIES FOLLOWING
REPORT ON WINNIPEG MEETING BETWEEN GOVERNOR LINK AND WINNIPEG
PREMIER SCHREYER:

BEGIN TEXT:

"PREMIER EDWARD SCHREYER SAID YESTERDAY THERE IS NO
POINT IN ATTEMPTING TO HALT THE CONTROVERSIAL GARRISON
DIVERSION PROJECT IN NORTH DAKOTA UNLESS IT CAN BE PROVED
THAT THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR IRRIGATION PROJECT WILL HAVE
ADVERSE EFFECTS IN MANITOBA.

"HOWEVER, THE PREMIER MADE IT CLEAR TO NORTH DAKOTA
GOVERNOR ARTHUR LINK THAT THE PROVINCE WILL BE PUSHING
VIGORIOUSLY FOR REMEDIAL ACTION OR COMPENSATION IF
ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE IN MANITOBA RESULTS FROM THE
PROJECT.

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"UNTIL ONE CAN DEMONSTRATE THIS (DAMAGE), THERE IS NO POINT IN AGONIZING AND SPECULATING AND ATTEMPTING TO CAUSE SOMETHING TO STOP,' MR. SCHREYER SAID.

"IF ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE IS PROVED WITHIN THE UNDERSTOOD RULES OF EVIDENCE AND SCIENTIFIC DETERMINATIONS, HE SAID, THERE WILL BE A CASE FOR REMEDIAL ACTION AND COMPENSATION.

"MR. SCHREYER'S COMMENTS WERE MADE FOLLOWING A MEETING IN WINNIPEG WITH GOVERNOR LINK AND OFFICIALS FROM NORTH DAKOTA, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE U.S. AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS AND AN OBSERVER FROM SASKATCHEWAN.

"THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE CANADIAN AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS ON THE CONTROVERSIAL GARRISON PROJECT, BUT YESTERDAY'S 5-1/2-HOUR MEETING WAS THE FIRST INVOLVING THE HEADS OF THE MANITOBA AND NORTH DAKOTA GOVERNMENTS.

"THE MASSIVE PROJECT IN NORTH DAKOTA IS EXPECTED TO AFFECT MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLIES AT THE MANITOBA COMMUNITIES OF SOURIS AND PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE. THERE IS ALSO CONCERN FROM BIOLOGISTS ABOUT ITS EFFECTS ON THE RECREATION VALUE OF LAKE WINNIPEG.

"GOVERNOR LINK SAID THE MANITOBA CONCERNS ARE SHARED BY NORTH DAKOTA. 'IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT THE GARRISON DIVERSION UNIT WAS THE FIRST TEST, BEFORE THE FACT, OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES IMPLICIT IN THE U.S.-CANADIAN BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY OF 1909.'" END TEXT

2. COMMENT: EXSTAFF OFFICER GLEN SHORTLIFFE HAS CHARACTERIZED ABOVE REPORT AS MISLEADING. ACCORDING TO SHORTLIFFE, SCHREYER HAS AGREED THAT PROPER LINE OF COMMUNICATION IS FROM ONE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE OTHER. SCHREYER FULLY SUPPORTS CANADIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S POSITION AS EXPRESSED IN ITS OCTOBER NOTE TO THE DEPARTMENT. SHORTLIFFE PARTICULARLY STRESSED THAT CANADA AND MANITOBA WOULD HOLD U.S. FULLY LIABLE FOR COMPENSATION IF ANY ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE IS SUFFERED IN CANADA.

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3. SHORTLIFFE ALSO REPORTED THAT GOVERNOR AND PREMIER AGREED TO FORM A NORTH DAKOTA-MANITOBA COMMITTEE TO MONITOR PROGRESS OF GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT. HE APPEARED SOMEWHAT NERVOUS BY THE FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE BUT SAID THAT "AS LONG AS THEY DON'T PRETEND TO BECOME INVOLVED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS" HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO ITS FORMATION AT THIS TIME. JOHNSON

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